REMARKS

With this Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been amended to remove references to Claims 1, 2 and 3. The references to those claims have been replaced with the text of the independent method, system and cartridge claims of the instant application. As the amendment is fully supported by specification at page 3, lines 24-28, and by the claims as originally filed, it does not constitute new matter. Entry thereof is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

No fees are believed due in connection with this Preliminary Amendment. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge all required fees, fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 and all required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment, to Pennie & Edmonds U.S. Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,

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42,983

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Enclosure (Exhibit A)

Exhibit A
Marked-Up Copy of Amended Paragraph

Amended paragraph at page 3, line 24, beginning "According to a first aspect of the invention":

According to a first aspect of the invention the above aim is achieved with [a method according to claim 1, with a system according to claim 2, and with a cartridge according to claim 3.] a method for processing a nucleic acid sample contained in a liquid, said method comprising (a) introducing said sample into a chamber of a cartridge which contains a chip shaped carrier having an active surface which carries an array of oligonucleotides, said active surface facing an inner surface of a wall of said cartridge, said chamber having a narrow interior and including a channel, a portion of said channel lying between said active surface of said chip shaped carrier and the inner surface of said wall, a rigid segment of said wall being adapted to be swung about a predetermined angle back and forth about a torsion bar, swinging of said rigid segment in one sense moving one end thereof towards said active surface, and swinging of the rigid segment in an opposite sense moving said one end of the rigid segment away from said active surface, (b) positioning said cartridge into a cartridge holder which holds said cartridge, said positioning being effected before or after introduction of said sample into said chamber, and (c) swinging said rigid segment of said wall about said predetermined angle back and forth about said torsion bar in order to cause relative motion of the liquid sample contained in said channel with respect to said active surface of said chip shaped carrier. According to the first aspect of the invention the above aim is also achieved with a system for processing a nucleic acid sample contained in a liquid, said system comprising (a) a cartridge for processing a liquid nucleic acid sample, said cartridge including a chip shaped carrier having an active surface which carries an array of oligonucleotides, said active surface facing an inner surface of a wall of said cartridge, a chamber having a narrow interior and including a channel, a portion of said channel lying between said active surface of said chip shaped carrier and the inner surface of said wall, and a rigid segment of said wall being adapted to be swung about a predetermined angle back and forth about a torsion bar, swinging of the rigid segment in one sense moving one end thereof towards said active surface, and swinging of the rigid segment in an opposite sense moving said one end of the rigid segment away from said active surface; (b) a cartridge holder which is adapted to hold said cartridge in such a way that said active surface of said chip shaped carrier lies in a substantially vertical plane;

and (c) means for swinging said rigid segment of said wall of said predetermined angle back and forth about said torsion bar in order to cause relative motion of the liquid contained in said channel with respect to said active surface of said chip shaped carrier. According to the first aspect of the invention the above aim is also achieved with a cartridge for processing a nucleic acid sample contained in a liquid, said cartridge comprising (a) a chip shaped carrier having an active surface which carries an array of oligonucleotides, said active surface facing an inner surface of a wall of said cartridge, (b) a chamber having a narrow interior and including a channel, a portion of said channel lying between said active surface of said chip shaped carrier and the inner surface of said wall, and (c) a rigid segment of said wall being adapted to be swung about a predetermined angle back and forth about a torsion bar, swinging of said rigid segment in one sense moving one end thereof towards said active surface, and swinging of said rigid segment in the opposite sense moving said one end of said rigid segment away from said active surface. Features of preferred embodiments are [defined by the dependent claims] described herein.